

Reorganization

On March 1st, the central technical service units, Monographic Services Division and Serials Services Division, were combined with Information Technology Services and three International Studies sections (Slavic, Near East, Southeast Asia) to form Resource Acquisitions and Description/Information Technology Services, under the leadership of Associate Dean of Libraries Bill Jordan. Previously, Jordan was AD for Information Technology Services.

Units that were formerly clustered with technical services now report elsewhere. Collection Management Services (including Gifts) and Preservation report to Tim Jewell, Director of Information Resources, Collections and Scholarly Communication. The Digital Initiatives Program temporarily reports to the Dean while its reporting lines are decided. The former South Asia Section was dissolved and a newly hired librarian for that subject area has joined the reference department.

LC Series Decision

We have put in place interim workflows to deal with LC's change of series treatment. We accept LC records as-is in our simple copy cataloging workflows and catch series statements through post-cataloging authority processing by our vendor. We continue to follow PCC practice and intend to follow a PCC decision on series. Discussions continue on possible internal workflows and ways that we can contribute to the decision-making process within PCC.

Strategic Discussions

Bill Jordan has started a series of "strategic conversations" that have been well attended by staff from all parts of the library. The first one focused on the UC report, and the second on the Calhoun report. As you might expect, much attention was given to series and subject headings. One result is that our Cataloging Policy Committee will work on a "white paper" on subjects that attempts to summarize our own institutional needs and position on controlled subject vocabulary. Another is a realization that we offer too many catalog interfaces, and we have begun a comparison chart to foster discussion of how our catalog interfaces differ and where we should concentrate our efforts.

OCLC Holdings

Washington has not previously maintained detailed holdings on OCLC, but is now planning to load them, beginning with serials. The goal is to use the MARC holdings format and to better support ILL and our local link resolver. Conversion is not straight forward because existing

holdings statements are expressed according to local standards developed in the 1980's before the emergence of national standards.

Taking advantage of OCLC subscription pricing, the library has begun to set holdings for Marcive government publications records and we intend to set them retrospectively for all Marcive holdings.

Serials Services

The Serials Services Division continues to move forward with integration of work and staff training following last year's reorganization that abolished the Serials Receipts Section and moved check-in functions to the Serials Acquisitions Section and pre- and post-cataloging functions to Serials Cataloging Section.

Serials Acquisitions staff is nearing completion of a project to transfer selected information about e-packages from check-in records to ERM records. With the hire of a temporary staff member in Collection Management Services, a project is underway to populate ERM records with license terms and store licenses in a local digital repository.

A phased project is underway to transfer lesser-used volumes in our main periodicals collection to auxiliary shelving. An eventual goal of the effort is to reclassify volumes remaining in the collection to LC to simplify use and maintenance.

Monographic Acquisitions

Workflows have been changed to speed processing of national-level cataloging records through acquisitions. An automated review of record quality is done by exporting data from the local system and running queries in MS Access. Books are sorted into cataloging workflows at the point of receipt, and for the best records, students process them. The remainder goes to acquisitions staff for "quick cataloging".

A pilot project is underway to purchase some new titles requested through ILL. Criteria for inclusion in the pilot are English-language titles published in the last two years that have been requested by faculty or graduate students and are in stock with our major rush vendors. Funding is provided centrally and requests are approved with ILL rather than by selectors. Turnaround time for these purchases has been within the normal window for borrowing. A proposal has been made to expand to new titles in Western European languages and to requests by undergraduates.

Over a period of two visits by vendor representatives, our YBP approval plans were reviewed and tuned up. Overall, they were expanded somewhat, which was driven by selector decisions rather than a programmatic attempt to increase the plan.

METS

Catalogers have conducted a pilot project using METS with digital images stored in our institutional repository, DSpace. METS is used as a way to store not only metadata but complex hierarchical relationships among the digital objects. The biggest difficulty was finding tools and creating the necessary interconnections among them.

Innovative Server

In order to upgrade to Innovative Release 2006, the library must purchase a new server, which will be housed in the main library building. Since 1993, central campus computing has hosted our Innovative servers, but their building is now running short of both space and electrical power(!). The library will use a machine room originally built for the mainframe computer of our previous local library system.

Joe Kiegel
Head, Monographic Services Division
Representative to Big Heads